

*M<sup>1</sup>*  
*cont.*

pulling the recorder apart at the juncture point, thereby separating the lower section from the upper section;

inserting through the inner portion of the ring an end of the upper section that is associated with the juncture point and is opposite to the proximate end, and sliding the ring towards the mouthpiece, the ring thereby becoming lodged around the upper section, wherein lodging the ring around upper section creates an interference fit between the upper section and the inner portion of the ring to support the recorder in a way that does not interfere with any of the air holes of the recorder;

reconnecting the lower and upper sections at the juncture point; and  
suspending the strap from the neck of the user.

*2.*

*12.* (Amended) A method for suspending a recorder from a neck of a user using a device that comprises a strap and a ring attached to the strap, the recorder comprising a lower section and an upper section joined at a juncture point, the recorder having a distal end belonging to the lower section and a proximate end belonging to the upper section, the recorder further having a mouthpiece at the proximate end, the upper section having a diameter that increases gradually from the juncture point to the mouthpiece, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a ring having an inner diameter at least as large as the diameter of the upper section at the juncture point and smaller than the diameter of the upper section at the mouthpiece;

suspending the strap from the neck of the user;

pulling the recorder apart at the juncture point, thereby separating the lower section from the upper section; and

inserting through the ring an end of the upper section that is associated with the juncture point and is opposite to the proximate end, and sliding the ring towards the mouthpiece, the ring thereby becoming lodged around the upper section.

*3.*

*13.* The method of claim 12, further comprising reconnecting the lower and upper sections at the juncture point.